



Thursday, March 3, 2011

## Hospitals to Testify at Appropriations Committee Hearing Tomorrow

Tomorrow, Friday, March 4, at 5:00 p.m., the Appropriations Committee will hold a public hearing for the Department of Social Services portion of [HB 6380](#), *An Act Concerning The Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2013*. CHA will be well represented at the hearing by hospital leaders who will testify in opposition to the bill. The Appropriations Committee is co-chaired by Senator Toni Harp (D-New Haven), and Representative Toni Walker, (D-New Haven), pictured below, from left to right.



The proposed state budget cuts \$83 million in funding from the Uncompensated Care and DSH pools, imposes a 5.5 percent tax on hospitals, and makes a number of other reductions and changes to the Medicaid program that will negatively affect hospitals and the people they serve. In fact, these budget actions threaten hospitals' significant role as today's safety net and seriously jeopardize our ability to invest in tomorrow.

CHA is in [support](#) of a provision of the budget that will provide resources to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and in [opposition](#) to other provisions that cut appropriations to Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC) for uncompensated care for behavioral health services.

Several other bills of interest to hospitals will also be heard tomorrow, including budget provisions having a severe impact on hospitals. An overview of all testimony submitted after the publication of this week's *Update* will be provided in next week's edition.

## Hospitals Encouraged to Attend Governor's Town Hall Meetings

Governor Dannel P. Malloy is crossing the state meeting with constituents to discuss the state's pressing economic and budgetary issues face-to-face with state residents, while listening to their thoughts and suggestions. The town hall series began last week with stops in Bridgeport and Torrington, and continued last night with a meeting in New London. All of the meetings so far have been well attended and hospitals are encouraged to attend a meeting locally to express concern about the impact of the budget on their institution and their community.

Click [here](#) for a list of local meetings. All of the events are open to the public; tickets are not necessary.

## CHA Meets with Congressman John Larson and CMS Innovation Director on Readmission Demonstration Proposal

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On Wednesday, March 2, a delegation from CHA met with Congressman John Larson and Richard Gilfillan, MD, (pictured below from left to right) the Acting Director of the new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to discuss a regional demonstration proposal to reduce readmissions that, if successful, would result in a gain-sharing opportunity.



The group that met with Congressman Larson and Dr. Gilfillan spoke about how their individual hospitals will be challenged to find the resources necessary to make it possible to reduce readmissions. Hospital leaders at the meeting included Kurt Barwis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bristol Hospital; Peter Karl, President & CEO, Eastern Connecticut Health Network; David Houle, Executive VP & CFO, Hebrew Health Care; Marcia Hickey, Vice President of Network Development, Hebrew Health Care; and Michael Woods, MD, MMM, FACS, Vice President, Medical Affairs, Johnson Memorial Hospital. For more information about the demonstration proposal, please contact Stephen Frayne, CHA's Senior Vice President, Health Policy, at [Frayne@chime.org](mailto:Frayne@chime.org), who also attended the meeting.

## Patient Safety Awareness Week/ CHA Holds Patient Safety Summit Focused on Patient-Driven Leadership To Improve Quality and Safety

Next week, March 6 -12, healthcare providers and patients across the country and around the world will be participating in Patient Safety Awareness Week (PSAW), an educational and awareness-building effort. Launched in 2002 by the National Patient Safety Foundation, this designated week is used as a time to increase the level of awareness about patient safety and the important role played by all stakeholders. This year's theme, "Are you in? Commit to Safe Health Care," is designed to engage staff, patients and families, and communities—helping them get involved, informed, and invested in improving the healthcare process.

During this week, on March 11, Connecticut hospitals will be coming together to focus on patient safety during the CHA 2011 Annual Patient Safety Summit (Click [here](#) for brochure.) This annual event offers leading information and perspectives on patient safety, presented by national experts in the field of patient safety as well as patients and families whose lives have been touched by a medical error.

For more information about the Patient Safety Summit, contact Christine Prestiano, Coordinator, Education and Sponsorship Services at (203) 294-7257 or [prestiano@chime.org](mailto:prestiano@chime.org).

## CHA Testifies on Bills Before the Judiciary, Public Health, and Planning and Development Committees

Connecticut hospitals were busy providing testimony on issues of importance to several key legislative committees this week. With legislative committees in the middle of the public hearing process, testimony was provided on:

- [HB 6437](#), *An Act Concerning The Development Of A Uniform Treatment Authorization Form For Mental Health Services*, a bill before the Judiciary Committee that would require the Attorney General to create a uniform consent form for mental health treatment, with input from the Department of Public Health, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Insurance. CHA [expressed](#) concerns that the bill does not include hospital stakeholders in the development process of the uniform treatment authorization form.
- [HB 5608](#), *An Act Concerning The Implementation Of Culturally And Linguistically Appropriate Standards In Health Care Settings*, a bill before the Public Health Committee and [supported](#) by CHA that would require the Commission on Health Equity to establish a comprehensive collaborative committee to monitor the implementation of, and compliance with, standards 4 to 7, of the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Standards issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health.
- [SB 1050](#), *An Act Concerning The Availability Of Automatic External Defibrillators In Certain Health Care Settings*, a bill before the Public Health Committee that would require each dialysis unit, outpatient surgical facility, and residential care

home to have at least one automatic external defibrillator (AED) readily accessible, with appropriately trained personnel able to use the AEDs, consistent with a facility policy for responding to cardiac-related patient emergencies. CHA [expressed concern](#) that, as drafted, the bill states every “dialysis unit” would be subject to these requirements, and seeks further clarification from the committee to make it clear that the provisions of the bill do not apply to dialysis units at a hospital where trained emergency response personnel already have access to defibrillators and other lifesaving procedures.

## Senator Theresa Gerratana Named Senate Public Health Chairwoman

Newly-elected State Senator Theresa Gerratana (D-New Britain) was appointed by Senate Leadership to serve as the Senate Chairwoman of the General Assembly’s Public Health Committee. Senator Gerratana will join Representative Betsy Ritter (D-Quaker Hill) as the two lead legislators in guiding healthcare policy through the General Assembly.



A former five-term state representative, Senator Gerratana was also appointed to serve as Chairwoman of the Select Committee on Children, and will serve as a member of the Judiciary and Regulations Review Committee. Before retiring eight years ago, Senator Gerratana was the House co-chair of the Human Services Committee. She defeated Republican Mayor Timothy Stewart of New Britain in the special election last week to replace the Senate seat formerly held by Donald DeFronzo, who resigned after being appointed commissioner of the state Department of Administrative Services.

In her position co-chairing the Public Health Committee, Senator Gerratana will work with hospitals and others in the healthcare community on issues relating to the Department of Public Health, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Developmental Services, and the Office of Health Care Access. She will also oversee all other matters relating to health, including emergency medical services; all licensing boards within the Department of Public Health; nursing homes; and controlled substances, including the treatment of substance abuse.

## Education Updates

### ***Leaping From Staff to Management, The Next Steps, Tuesday, March 22, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.***

Whether recently assigned to the role of manager or a seasoned veteran, it is important to periodically step back to review your knowledge of management theory and practice, and determine how well your problem-solving and decision-making skills are keeping pace with the ever-changing and challenging healthcare environment. For those of you who attended our first program “Leaping from Staff to Management: You’re a Manager – Now What?” in February, and all managers who want to improve their skills and learn practical techniques for dealing with conflict, leading change initiatives, responding to the “dead horse” dilemma, coaching employees for better performance, and using time management strategies, this highly interactive session will help you manage both the people and business components of your job more effectively.

This program is co-sponsored with the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives. At the conclusion of the program, participants will be able to: define conflict, its role in the process of change, and the emotion of anger; describe why power can be both positive and negative, and how it can influence individual and team problem solving; discuss how a rewards and recognition system can improve employee competency; and explain why time is a valuable resource and list ways to use it more effectively.

Victor Walton, MA, professional educator, speaker, trainer, and leadership consultant, will be the program’s speaker.

Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register.

### **2011 Nurse Manager Leadership Academy**

CHA’s popular Nurse Manager Leadership Academy is a five-part series modeled after the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) Nurse Manager Leadership Collaborative Learning Domain Framework ©2004 NMLC AONE and specifically designed to meet the development needs of new and aspiring nurse managers.

Developed and implemented with the first cohort of nurse managers in the spring of 2008, and repeated in 2009 and 2010, the program has five comprehensive and successive learning modules built upon each other to focus on the link between clinical background and the leadership, business, and interpersonal skills needed in the role of the nurse manager. We are excited to have Jo Manion, PhD, RN, a nationally recognized speaker and author, returning to present two sessions on March 30 and 31.

**Wednesday, March 23:** Creating the Leader in Yourself, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

**Wednesday, March 30:** Leading the People (part one), 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

**Thursday, March 31:** Leading the People (part two), 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

**Wednesday, April 13:** Managing the Business (part one), 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

**Monday, April 25:** Managing the Business (part two), 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

Click [here](#) for the brochure.